

LITTLE
BIG
LESSONS

Rick Hansen
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SCENARIO CARDS

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 9–12

There are many ways to use the following scenario cards. Try the ideas below:

- Read a scenario, and reflect on your answer. Then compare your ideas with the possible answers provided. Go through all ten scenarios or pick a few.
- Pick a scenario card and a discussion partner (this could be a friend, parent, classmate, sibling, etc. in person or online). Each person can represent one perspective of the discussion (for example, one person can be Giovanni who uses a walker and has difficulty using the stairs to the subway, and one person can represent the city). Have a discussion and come to a resolution.
- Read all ten scenario cards, as well as their possible answers. Then, answer the following questions:
 1. What did you learn from these scenarios or their answers about people with disabilities?
 2. Did these scenario cards bring to light any challenges that people with disabilities may face that you had never considered before? What can you do to help spread more awareness or remove some of these barriers?
 3. After reading the scenario cards, are there other scenarios that people with disabilities likely face that you may not have considered before that were not included in these cards? Come up with two additional scenarios for each type of disability (vision, hearing, mobility), and describe them. What you would do if you witnessed these scenario in real life?

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VISION





Suzy is blind. She uses braille to read.
Suzy has been assigned a book at
school that is not available in braille.
What can her teacher do to help
her out?

Possible answers:

1. Use a device to transcribe an e-version of the book into braille.
2. Select a different textbook for the class that is available in braille.
3. Provide an audiobook version or version that can be used with a screen reader.
4. Provide a reader for Suzy.
5. Suzy's teacher can provide her with a reading plan which will allow her, with some help, to scan the book chapter per chapter.



Miguel has trouble reading his teacher's PowerPoints because he is colour blind. What should his teacher change?



Possible answers:

1. Change the colours of the PowerPoint, or use black and white.
2. Use a dark background with lighter colour for text. The professor may highlight headings with yellow.
3. Read the text out loud (temporary solution).



Juan is blind. At the bank's ATM, the instructions are only written. How can the bank make it so that Juan can use the ATM?

Possible answers:

1. The bank should install a screen reader that Juan can use with his headphones.
2. There should be a raised dot on the #5 so that Juan can tell which key is which on the keypad.
3. There should be braille letters on all or certain important buttons, such as OK, Correction, Cancel.



HEARING





Ivan has a hearing disability and relies on lip reading to understand what people are saying. His professor often speaks while writing on the board, with his back to the class. What should Ivan's professor be doing to help?

Possible answers:

1. Turn around and face the class while talking.
2. Make use of a radio microphone system, which will attach to a device on Ivan's ear to allow Ivan to hear him while eliminating excess noise from the rest of the class.
3. The school could provide a note taker for Ivan.



Keisha is Deaf. During a fire alarm, if she was alone with no one around her she might not know that the alarm was going off at all. What could the school do to make sure that people who cannot hear know when the fire alarm is going off?

Possible answers:

1. During fire drills, go over all proper procedures so Keisha and all students understand protocol.
2. Install visual fire alarms.
3. Have someone dedicated to check all areas of the school.
4. Instruct Keisha that if the class is away to immediately check outside.



Many people believe people who are Deaf can't enjoy music. Yet, the composer Beethoven continued to compose music after he had completely lost his hearing. How do you think Deaf people can experience music, and how can we include them more in events like music class or concerts?

Possible answers:

1. The vibrations created by music can be felt by everyone.
2. Songs can be interpreted by people using sign language; this interpretation includes not only signing, but also facial expressions, body movement/dance, and expression via clothing and other visual cues. An example of this is Ed Sheeran's music video for the song "You Need Me, I Don't Need You", where a young actor interprets the song via British Sign Language and dance.



MOBILITY





Giovanni uses a walker. It's very difficult for him to get up the stairs in the subway. How can the city help fix this?

Possible answers:

1. Install elevators.
2. Install escalators.
3. Install ramps.



Yang loves to travel, but he has recently developed an illness that causes him to require a wheelchair. He now finds it difficult to find a hotel that can accommodate him when he goes abroad. What can hotels do to better accommodate travelers who use wheelchairs?

Possible answers:

1. Renovate the hotel so that some or all of the rooms are accessible.
2. Ensure that existing elevators, ramps, and automatic doors as well as accessible bathrooms are all in working condition.
3. When constructing new hotels, ensure that all rooms are accessible.
4. Hotel staff should be knowledgeable about accessibility & able to refer people with disabilities to appropriate services.
5. Indicate the availability of accessible rooms on their websites.



Maria is a little person. She's at the local self-serve frozen yogurt shop, but she can't reach the counter to get the toppings. How can the shop change things to make it easier for Maria to get some gummy bears in her froyo?

Possible answers:

1. Lower counter/counters at different levels for people of differing heights.
2. Build a step next to the counter.
3. Provide a step stool.
4. Have someone serve people toppings instead of self-serve.



Farhana wants to vote in her province's election, but finds it difficult to hold a pen or pencil due to an illness that causes weakness in her hands. How can the government make voting easier for her?

Possible answers:

1. Voting machines with touch screens.
2. Online voting.
3. At-home ballots that someone can help Farhana fill out.
4. Provide assistance at voting booths for people who need it.



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